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TOUGH GUY

Americans want Biden to be tougher on Russia: AP-NORC poll

President Joe Biden speaks about the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the East Room of the White House, on Feb. 24, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press
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Americans want Biden to be tougher on Russia: AP-NORC poll

From Front

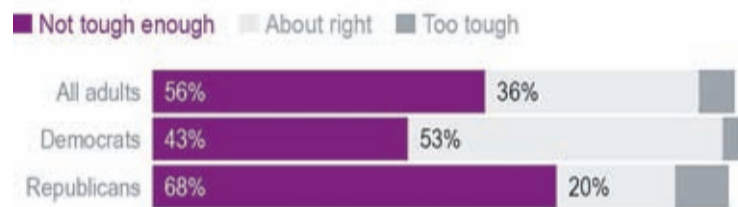
By **HANNAH FINGERHUT**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Joe Biden meets with key allies in Brussels to coordinate a stronger response to Russia's monthlong assault on Ukraine, a new poll shows Americans have yet to rally around his leadership. Concern about Russia has swelled and support for a major U.S. role in the conflict strengthened in the last month, but Biden's negative approval rating has not budged, according to the poll Thursday from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Few are very confident that he can handle a crisis, and a majority thinks he lacks toughness in dealing with Russia. Only 43% of Americans approve of Biden and a similar percentage approve of his handling of the relationship with Russia. Both measures are little different from an AP-NORC poll conducted days before the Feb. 24 invasion.

Majority in US say Biden has not been tough enough on Russia

A new AP-NORC poll finds more Republicans than Democrats say Biden's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not been tough enough, but even members of his own party are closely divided over his approach.

Overall, do you think President Biden's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been:



Results based on interviews with 1,082 U.S. adults conducted March 17-21. The margin of error is ±4.0 percentage points for the full sample.

Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

A new AP-NORC poll finds more Republicans than Democrats say Biden's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not been tough enough, but even members of his own party are closely divided over his approach.

Associated Press

The U.S., along with NATO allies, have tried to isolate Russia and Russian President Vladimir Putin with sanctions, including freezing foreign assets of Russia's central bank and cutting off its supply to essential war materiel. But Russia has continued for a month to batter cities in Ukraine with air strikes and artillery, despite a stalled ground invasion.

Over the next three days, the Biden administration aims to work with key European allies on a united strategy to aid Ukraine militarily, increase sanctions on Russia and wrestle with the worsening humanitarian crisis, according to Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser. Biden does so on shaky ground with the American public. Only about a

quarter are very confident that the president has the ability to handle a crisis, promote U.S. standing in the world or effectively manage the U.S. military, though most have at least some confidence.

Fifty-six percent of Americans think Biden has not been tough enough on Russia, while 36% say his approach has been "about right."

Even among members of his own party, Biden faces pressure to do more. The poll shows Democrats are closely divided over the president's response, with 43% saying he hasn't been tough enough. Somewhat more, 53%, say it's been "about right."

"I understand he's between a rock and a hard place," said Rachel Collins, a 41-year-old Democrat from Chicago. "It just feels like Putin's not going to stop at Ukraine."

Collins, an elementary school teacher, said she feels like she's watching history unfolding yet again. "How many years are we gonna watch this happen and then have to step in

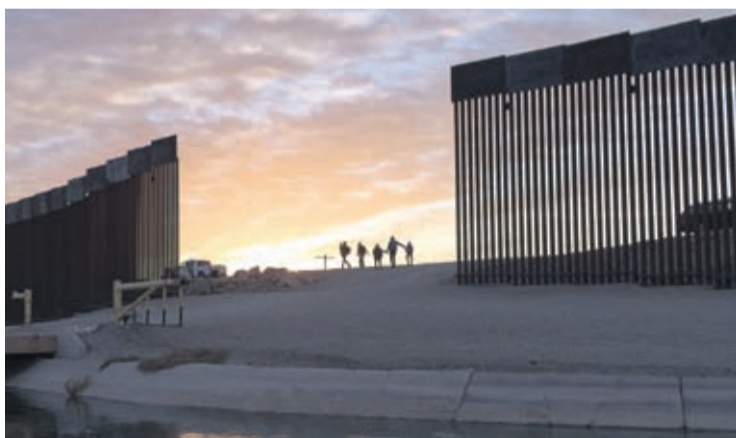
anyway?" she added. "It just feels inevitable and, in the meantime, we're just watching all these people suffer."

While support for a major U.S. role has grown since last month, from 26% to 40%, Biden faces a tightrope walk to avoid war and to curb the impact on the American people. The poll shows close to half of Americans are "extremely" or "very" concerned about being drawn into war with Russia.

Biden has repeatedly said that he will not send American troops to Ukraine, though some have been deployed to neighboring NATO countries.

"I think that he's doing the right thing and being cautious, but it's really hard when you're watching and reading about these stories day to day," Collins said. "More aggressive at where we are means putting troops on the ground, and I don't necessarily know if that's the answer either."

"Then, you know, there'll be people saying 'why are we putting troops in there,'" she added. □



A pair of migrant families from Brazil seeking asylum, walk through a gap in the border wall to reach the United States after crossing from Mexico to Yuma, Ariz., June 10, 2021.

Associated Press

By **AMY TAXIN and ELLIOT SPAGAT**
Associated Press

The Biden administration on

Thursday unveiled new procedures to handle asylum claims at the U.S. southern border, hoping to decide

New rules aim to decide U.S. asylum cases in months, not years

cases in months instead of years.

The rules empower asylum officers to grant or deny claims, an authority that has been limited to immigration judges for people arriving at the border with Mexico.

Until now, asylum officers have only done initial screenings for asylum and other forms of humanitarian relief for border arrivals. The change could have far-reaching impact, but administration officials said

they will start slowly and without additional resources. It will take effect 60 days after the rule is published in the Federal Register, which will occur next week.

The administration estimated last year that it would need to hire 800 more employees for asylum officers to handle about 75,000 cases a year. Without more money and new positions, it is unclear how much impact the move will have at first.

The United States has been

the world's most popular destination for asylum-seekers since 2017, according to the U.N. refugee agency, putting enormous strain on immigration courts. The court backlog has soared to nearly 1.7 million cases.

"The current system for handling asylum claims at our borders has long needed repair," said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, whose department includes asylum officers at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. □

In 1st full year of pandemic, biggest metros lost residents

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

After returning to metro San Francisco following a college football career, Anthony Giusti felt like his hometown was passing him by. The high cost of living, driven by a constantly transforming tech industry, ensured that even with two jobs he would never save enough money to buy a house.

So he started looking elsewhere, settling on Houston just last year.

"In Houston, I can be a blue-collar entrepreneur. With the Houston housing market, it made sense to come here," said Giusti, who started a house-painting business.

Giusti was one of tens of thousands of residents who vacated some of the nation's biggest, most densely-populated and costly metropolitan areas in favor of Sunbelt destinations during the first full year of the pandemic, from mid-2020 to mid-2021, according to new data released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau. The pandemic intensified population trends of migration to the South and West, as well as a slowdown in growth in the biggest cities in the U.S.

The exodus from the biggest U.S. metropolitan areas was led by New York, which lost almost 328,000 residents. It was driven by people leaving for elsewhere, even though the metro area gained new residents from abroad and births outpaced deaths.

Metropolitan Los Angeles lost almost 176,000 resi-



People ride a new indoor tourist attraction called RiseNY just off Times Square in Manhattan's Theater District in New York City on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

dents, the San Francisco area saw a loss of more than 116,000 residents and greater Chicago lost more than 91,000 people from 2020 to 2021. The San Jose, Boston, Miami and Washington areas also lost tens of thousands of residents primarily from people moving away.

On the flip side, the Dallas area grew by more than 97,000 residents, Phoenix jumped by more 78,000 people and greater Houston added 69,000 residents, including Giusti. In the Phoenix metropolitan area, growth was driven by moves from elsewhere in the U.S., while it was propelled by a combination of migration and births outpacing deaths in Dallas and Houston.

"Texas has a thing about it, a romantic thing, with cowboys, and there's the idea here of the Lone Star State," said Giusti in describing the lure of Texas. The U.S. Census Bureau's Vintage 2021 estimates also showed micro areas — defined as having a core city of less than 50,000 residents — gaining population from mid-2020 to mid-2021, after years of slow growth or declining population. The small population gains were driven by people moving there, as deaths continued to outpace births in many of these communities. Growth in micro areas was led by Kalispell, Montana; Jefferson, Georgia; and Bozeman, Montana.

Demographer William Frey said he believes the

growth of micro areas and decreases in the biggest metros will be temporary, taking place at the height of people moving during the pandemic when work-from-home arrangements freed up workers from having to go to their offices.

"There is clearly a dispersion, but I think it's a blip," said Frey, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's metropolitan policy program, Brookings Metro. "We're at one of the lowest levels of immigration in a long, long time, and that affects big metros like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. That is going to come back. With the natural decrease, we will go back to normal."

Between mid-2020 and mid-2021, there was a stark

increase in deaths outpacing births across the country. Almost three-quarters of U.S. counties experienced a natural decrease from deaths exceeding births, up from 55.5% in 2020 and 45.5% in 2019. The trend was fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as fewer births and an aging population.

"You have more older Americans, and birth rates are low so you don't have many children being born, and then along comes COVID, and it hits older adults the most, often in rural areas without access to good health care," said Kenneth Johnson, a senior demographer at the University of New Hampshire. "It's like a perfect storm, if you will, that produced this natural decrease."

Pittsburgh and Tampa had the largest natural decreases of U.S. metropolitan areas, in the range of 10,000 residents each. Pittsburgh's overall population declined by almost 14,000 residents because people left. But the Tampa area grew bigger because of an influx of more than 45,000 new residents, such as Jennifer Waldholtz who moved from Atlanta with her husband in 2020. They had previously lived in Orlando and missed Florida's palm trees and blue skies.

"We wanted to come back to Florida. It was state-specific," said Waldholtz, who works in nonprofit development. "We loved the way of life in Florida. It's a vibe, the way of living, sunshine, palm trees, but definitely not politically." □

Associated Press

Feds: Forced-reset triggers are machine guns under U.S. law

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials are notifying gun dealers that some forced-reset triggers, which allow guns to fire rapidly with a single continuous pull of the trigger, are considered machine guns under federal law and subject to strict regulation.

The notification was being made Thursday in an open letter from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to federally licensed firearms dealers. It spells out how investigators have determined the triggers to

be "conversion devices," making the weapons machine guns.

The Biden administration has been working to strengthen gun regulation, step up its fight against gun violence and tackle rising violent crime rates in the country. The Justice Department has already announced it is taking a hardline approach to gun dealers who break federal law and has established several strike forces in cities to help stop firearms trafficking. In the new letter, the agency said its examination of the devices in question determined that they "allow a firearm to automatically ex-

pel more than one shot with a single, continuous pull of the trigger."

The ATF says using the triggers, some of which sell online for around \$400, mean that the weapons are being turned into machine guns under federal law, and as a result would be subject to strict regulation for possession, transportation or transferring the devices.

The determination applies only to forced-reset triggers that allow guns to fire more than one shot with a single trigger-pull and not others on the market that require the trigger to be released before another shot can be fired. □

Judge sides with 12 disabled kids seeking masks in schools

By SARAH RANKIN

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that an executive order and new Virginia law allowing parents to opt their children out of classroom COVID-19 mask mandates cannot prevent 12 vulnerable students from seeking a “reasonable modification” that could include a requirement that their classmates wear masks.

These students' health conditions, which include cancer, cystic fibrosis, asthma, Down syndrome, lung conditions and weakened immune systems, make them particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, their parents say. They sued Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin and other state officials in February, arguing that the mask-optional policy effectively excludes some disabled children from public schools, in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act. U.S. District Court Judge Norman Moon granted in part an injunction sought by the parents. But he emphasized that the executive order and state law remain in effect, and said families of any other vulnerable children will have to make their own cases.

“This is not a class action, and the twelve plaintiffs in this case have no legal right to ask the Court to



Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin announces that he is calling a Special Session of the Legislature on April 4, as he stands outside the Senate Chamber inside the State Capitol in Richmond, Va., Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

deviate from that state law in any schools in Virginia (much less school districts) their children do not attend, or indeed even those areas of their schools in which Plaintiffs' children do not frequent,” he wrote. Youngkin campaigned against mask and vaccine mandates, and one of his first acts after being sworn

in as governor in January was signing an executive order that sought to make masks optional in schools. Confusion, pushback from school districts, and litigation quickly followed. In February, the divided General Assembly took action, with a few Democrats joining Republicans in passing legislation banning local

school systems from imposing mask mandates on students beginning March 1. The plaintiffs were represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, the Disability Law Center of Virginia, the Washington Lawyers' Committee and two private law firms. Moon found that the plaintiffs are likely to suc-

ceed on the merits of their claim that the executive order and new state law “are preempted by federal law, to the extent that they prevent or limit Plaintiffs' schools or school districts from considering Plaintiffs' individualized requests that some amount of masking is necessary as a ‘reasonable modification’ to that otherwise applicable Virginia law.”

He wrote that the public interest is served by permitting their school districts to consider their individualized requests.

The injunction will remain in effect until a final decision in the litigation is issued, the judge wrote.

Republican Attorney General Jason Miyares said in a brief statement that the ruling affirms that “parents have the right to make choices for their children.” Eden Heilman, legal director for the ACLU of Virginia, said the group sees the ruling as a victory and is thrilled for its clients.

Although the ruling is limited to the 12 plaintiffs, it could serve as a “blueprint” for other students with disabilities across Virginia who could point to it and ask their school district for accommodations, she said. Heilman also said she couldn't rule out the possibility of a class-action suit down the road. □

Associated Press



Hundreds, including Candi Brings, bottom left, march from Memorial Park to the Andrew W. Bogue Federal building on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, in Rapid City, S.D., where it was announced that a federal civil rights lawsuit was filed against the Grand Gateway Hotel for denying services to Native Americans.

Associated Press

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside a federal courthouse in a South Da-

kota city Wednesday to cheer the filing of a federal lawsuit over a hotel owner's pledge to ban Native

Suit filed over threat to ban Native Americans from hotel

Americans from the property.

The protesters held a rally and prayer meeting in a Rapid City park then walked the streets in response to a social media post by a Grand Gateway Hotel owner who said she would not allow Native Americans on the property. Demonstrators marched to sounds of drums and carried tribal flags and signs. One banner that read, “We will not tolerate racist policies and practices” stood as a backdrop for tribal leaders and others to talk about the civil rights suit

that cites “a policy, pattern, or practice of international racial discrimination against Native Americans.” The suit seeks class action status.

Brendan Johnson, a former U.S. attorney for South Dakota and lawyer for the plaintiffs, said the “rest of the world” needs to know what's going on in Rapid City. The suit seeks unnamed general and punitive damages.

“We need to be clear. We don't file this complaint to send a message. We file this complaint because we want justice,” Johnson said

at a press conference.

Connie Uhre, one of the owners of the Grand Gateway Hotel in Rapid City, posted the ban notice on Facebook Sunday. That followed a shooting at the hotel early Saturday involving two Native American teenagers, Rapid City police said. Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier called the post racist and discriminatory and demanded an apology.

Messages left at the hotel were not immediately returned. Court documents do not list an attorney for defendants. □

Ukraine says Moscow is forcibly taking civilians to Russia

By NEBI QENA and
CARA ANNA

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) —

Ukraine accused Moscow on Thursday of forcibly taking hundreds of thousands of civilians from shattered Ukrainian cities to Russia, where some may be used as “hostages” to pressure Kyiv to give up.

Lyudmyla Denisova, Ukraine’s ombudsperson, said 402,000 people, including 84,000 children, have been taken against their will.

The Kremlin gave nearly identical numbers for those who have been relocated, but it said they wanted to go to Russia. Ukraine’s rebel-controlled eastern regions are predominantly Russian-speaking, and many people there have supported close ties to Moscow.

A month into the invasion, meanwhile, the two sides traded heavy blows in what has become a devastating war of attrition. Ukraine’s navy said it sank a large Russian landing ship near the port city of Berdyansk that had been used to bring in armored vehicles. Russia claimed to have taken the eastern town of Izyum after fierce fighting. At an emergency NATO



A man walks amid smoke from a burning house, destroyed after a Russian attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Thursday, March 24, 2022.

summit in Brussels, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pleaded with the Western allies via video for planes, tanks, rockets, air defense systems and other weapons, saying his country is “defending our common values.”

U.S. President Joe Biden, in Europe for the summit and other high-level meetings, gave assurances more aid is on its way, though it appeared unlikely the West would give Zelenskyy everything he wanted, for

fear of triggering a much wider war.

Around the capital, Kyiv, and other areas, Ukrainian defenders have fought Moscow’s ground troops to a near-stalemate, raising fears that a frustrated Russian President Vladimir Putin will resort to chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

In other developments Thursday:

Ukraine and Russia exchanged a total of 50 military and civilian prisoners,

the largest swap reported yet, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said.

In Chernihiv, where an airstrike this week destroyed a crucial bridge, a city official, Olexander Lomako, said a “humanitarian catastrophe” is unfolding as Russian forces target food storage places.

He said about 130,000 people are left in the besieged city, about half its prewar population.

Kyiv and Moscow gave

conflicting accounts, meanwhile, about the people being relocated to Russia and whether they were being moved willingly or were being coerced or lied to.

Russian Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev on Thursday said that the roughly 400,000 people evacuated to Russia since the start of the military action were from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Moscow separatists have been fighting for control for nearly eight years.

Russian authorities said they are providing accommodations and dispensing payments to the evacuees. But Donetsk Region Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said that “people are being forcibly moved into the territory of the aggressor state.”

Denisova said those removed by Russian troops included a 92-year-old woman in Mariupol who was forced to go to Taganrog in southern Russia.

Ukrainian officials said that the Russians are taking people’s passports and moving them to “filtration camps” in Ukraine’s separatist-controlled east before sending them to various distant, economically depressed areas in Russia. □

Associated Press

U.K. court OKs harassment claim against Spain’s former king

MADRID (AP) — A British court ruled Thursday that royal immunity laws do not protect Spain’s former king, Juan Carlos I, in a lawsuit for alleged harassment filed by his ex-lover.

High Court Justice Matthew Nicklin said that because the claim involves Juan Carlos’ private acts in the aftermath of a romantic relationship, he does not have legal immunity under either Spanish or British law. Corinna Larsen, a Danish socialite and businesswoman who lives in Monaco and London, was the unofficial partner of Juan Carlos for years, but the couple split amid increased media and public scrutiny in Spain. Juan Carlos stepped down

as king in 2014, allowing his son to become King Felipe VI. In 2020, after Larsen and Juan Carlos became subjects of judicial investigations for opaque financial dealings, including assets kept in tax havens, she sued the former monarch, accusing him of allegedly orchestrating threats and ordering unlawful covert and overt surveillance starting in 2012.

Larsen has asked the court for a restraining order against Juan Carlos, as well as compensation for mental health treatment costs. Robin Rathmell of Kobre & Kim, the law firm representing Larsen, said Thursday’s ruling demonstrated that Juan Carlos “cannot hide

behind position, power, or privilege” to avoid the lawsuit.

“This is the first step on the road to justice; the appalling facts of this case will finally be brought before the court,” Rathmell said in a statement.

Juan Carlos’ Spanish lawyers declined to comment on the London court’s ruling.

The former monarch has been based in the United Arab Emirates since 2020. He recently announced his desire to return to Spain for sporadic visits after prosecutors at home and in Switzerland found no evidence of financial misbehavior that would fall outside royal immunity laws.

Juan Carlos, 84, has retained the title of “King Emeritus” since he abdicated. Felipe has tried to

shield his own reign from the scandals affecting his father and other members of the royal family. □



Spain’s former King Juan Carlos waves at the bullring in Aranjuez, Spain, Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Many baffled by Taliban reneging pledge on girls' education

By **KATHY GANNON**

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A news presenter on Afghanistan's TOLO TV wept as he read the announcement. Images of girls crying after being turned back from school flooded social media. Aid groups and many others remained baffled.

The Taliban have so far refused to explain their sudden decision to renege on the pledge to allow girls to go to school beyond sixth grade. Schools were supposed to reopen to older girls on Wednesday, the start of the new school year. The ban caught even the Taliban-appointed Education Ministry unprepared. In many places across Afghanistan, some girls in higher grades returned to schools, only to be told to go home.

The move may have been designed to appease the Taliban's hard-line base but it came at the expense of further alienating the international community. The world has been reluctant to officially recognize Afghanistan's new rulers, concerned the Taliban



Afghan girls participate in a lesson at Tajrobawai Girls High School in Herat, Afghanistan on Nov. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

would impose similar harsh measures and restrictions particularly limiting women's rights to education and work as when they previously ruled the country in the late 1990s.

The United Nations children's agency told The Associated Press on Thursday they were blindsided by the announcement.

"I think that yesterday was a very confusing day for all of us," said Jeannette Vo-

gelaar, UNICEF's chief of education in Afghanistan.

"We were blindsided," said Sam Mort, UNICEF's communications chief in Afghanistan. "All the messages, all the actions that had been taking place led us to believe that schools were opening, and as we understand it, that's what our counterparts in the Ministry of Education believed as well."

Ahead of the planned re-

opening, in remote and deeply conservative villages where women teachers may not have been available to educate girls arrangements were made for older male teachers, who were considered acceptable, to step in and teach all-girls classes beyond sixth grade.

Coincidentally or not, the Taliban leadership was summoned on Wednesday to southern Kandahar

province amid rumors of a Cabinet shuffle, which was later denied. Still, reports have persisted of declining health of the elderly, Taliban-appointed Prime Minister Hasan Akhund, a hard-liner.

Since the Taliban seized power in mid-August during the last weeks of the chaotic withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from Afghanistan, there have been reports of divisions among Taliban leaders, with lines drawn between the hard-liners and pragmatists.

It's unclear whether a tussle among the Taliban on how to rule the country could have contributed to Wednesday's ban but Torek Farhadi, an analyst who has advised past Afghan governments, called it a misfire.

In Kabul on Wednesday, sisters Raihana Mirzakhail, 18, and Suria Mirzakhail, 17, showed up at their Maw-lana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi school. Their teacher started taking down attendance for the eleventh grade, when another teacher came into the classroom and told all the girls to go home. □

Iran blames U.S. for delays in reaching nuclear deal

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran's foreign minister claimed Thursday that his country is ready to reach a lasting agreement with world powers, blaming the latest failure to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal on an allegedly "unre-

alistic vision" by the United States. Speaking during a visit to Beirut, Hossein Amirabdollahian urged the U.S. to stop "wasting time."

Nuclear negotiations nearly reached completion on the deal earlier this month

before Russia demanded that its trade with Iran be exempted from Western sanctions over Ukraine, throwing the process into disarray.

Negotiators have yet to reconvene in the Austrian capital, and its unclear exactly what hurdles lie ahead.

Amirabdollahian discussed a range of issues with Lebanese officials, including the tiny Mediterranean country's parliamentary elections due in May, Russia's war in Ukraine and the latest developments on efforts to resurrect the nuclear deal.

"We believe that if there is a realistic American vision in dealing with the situation, we will very soon see the birth of this nuclear deal," he said. Asked about the main obstacles,

he said "some matters are still pending and they are related to lifting the unjust sanctions" imposed on Iran. "We believe that the United States should move on the right track instead of wasting time," he said, without elaborating. "We are ready to reach a strong, good and lasting agreement as long it does not cross the Islamic Republic of Iran's red lines."

Iran enjoys wide influence in Lebanon through the Shiite militant Hezbollah group that Tehran has funded and armed since the early 1980s.

Amirabdollahian arrived in Lebanon Thursday from neighboring Syria, where he met with Syrian President Bashar Assad and other top officials.

Iran is a strong ally of Assad and has sent thousands of

Iran-backed fighters from around the region, including Hezbollah militants, to bolster Syrian government forces against opponents in the 11-year Syrian conflict.

On Monday, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, signaled support for Tehran's nuclear negotiations to secure sanctions relief a rare reference to the still-halted talks as world powers near a diplomatic turning point.

And last Friday, news of Tehran's decision to reprocess a fraction of its stockpile of highly enriched uranium into material that can be used in medicine instead of enriching further, to weapon-grade levels appears to signal the negotiations may still see the parties return to Vienna and reach a deal. □



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, speaks during a joint press conference with his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bouhabib in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, March 24, 2022.

Associated Press

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Human rights group decries deportation to 'chaos' in Haiti

By DÁNICA COTO and
EVENS SANON

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Human Rights Watch released a report Thursday demanding the U.S. and other countries stop deporting Haitians to their homeland, calling it “unconscionable” and warning that they are putting people’s lives in danger.

More than 25,700 people have been deported to Haiti from January 2021 to February 2022, with 79% of them alone expelled by the U.S., according to the International Organization for Migration.

“Haitians and their children, many born abroad, are being returned to a country in chaos,” said César Muñoz, senior Americas researcher with Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit organization based in New York.

Haiti’s turmoil deepened significantly in the past year with inflation, kidnappings and violence spiking as the country tries to recover from the July 7 assassina-



Haitians who were deported from the United States deplane at the Toussaint Louverture International Airport, in Port au Prince, Haiti, Sunday, Sep. 19, 2021.

tion of President Jovenel Moïse and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck in mid-August, killing more than 2,200 people and destroying or damaging tens of thousands of homes. Jobs also have become even scarcer in a coun-

try of more than 11 million people where 60% of the population makes less than \$2 a day.

In addition, gangs have grown more powerful amid ongoing political instability, with reported kidnappings soaring by 180% and ho-

micides by 17% in the past year, according to a report by the United Nations Security Council. An estimated 19,000 people have lost their homes due to gang violence, and many are still living in temporary shelters in extremely unhy-

gienic conditions. “Port-au-Prince is now hell,” said Cassandra Petit, a 39-year-old mother of two whose partner was killed last year when he went back to the home they had fled amid ongoing gang violence to retrieve clothes and school backpacks for their children. “He never returned.” “When I come back, I don’t know what the kids will eat in the evening,” she said. “I start to cry before I make it to the house.”

The U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization recently reported that some 4.5 million people across Haiti require urgent assistance given a severe lack of food.

Muñoz said no one should be deporting people to Haiti given those conditions.

“It is unconscionable that any government would send people to Haiti while it experiences such a deterioration in security and a heightened risk to everyone’s life and physical integrity,” he said. □

Associated Press

Prince William expresses sorrow for slavery in Jamaica visit

By DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince William has expressed his “profound sorrow” for slavery during a visit to Jamaica, though he stopped short of offering the apology demanded by protesters who are also seeking reparations for Britain’s role in the slave trade.

William, second in line to the throne, made the comments while addressing a dinner in Kingston, Jamaica’s capital. He echoed the words of his father, the Prince of Wales, who de-

scribed the slave trade as an “appalling atrocity” during a visit to Barbados last year, when that Caribbean nation severed its ties to the British crown and became a republic.

“I want to express my profound sorrow,” William said. “Slavery was abhorrent, and it should never have happened.”

The prince and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, are on a weeklong trip to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas designed to strengthen Britain’s ties with Commonwealth nations as

Queen Elizabeth II marks 70 years on the throne. Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said earlier Wednesday that his country intends to sever its ties to the monarchy and become fully independent.

The queen, William’s grandmother, remains the head of state for Jamaica and 13 other countries that were once British colonies.

William’s comments underscore the sensitivity of the trip in a country where Britain’s legacy as Jamaica’s colonial ruler during the era of enslaved African labor is



Britain’s Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge attend the 1st Battalion Irish Guards’ St. Patrick’s Day Parade at Mons Barracks, March 17, 2022 in Aldershot, England.

Associated Press

still controversial. The prince said anniversaries such as the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which will be marked on Friday, provide a moment for “re-

flexion.” The Advocates Network, a Jamaican alliance of human rights activists, rejected William’s comments and said it did not constitute the apology they’re seeking. □

LOCAL



ORANJESTAD — 2021 was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling

Harbour House Aruba officially open! 80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!

their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people



see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment

agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

For more information: <https://harbourhousearuba.com>

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Camping season 2022 announced

ORANJESTAD - During a recently held press conference, the Interim Chief of Police, Mrs. Irma Gordon, announced the terms and conditions of the camping permits given to which permit holders have to adhere to.

Camping officially starts on April 10, 2022, at noon. That means that only on or after this date and time, trailers and tents are allowed on the beach. All objects placed before this date will be removed by the authorities.

Permit holders must remove all objects, tents, and trailers from the beach at the latest on April 24, 2022. Failing to remove camping-related artifacts after April 24, 2022, will result in the removal by the authorities on the permit holder's account. The Police Department urges campers and beachgoers to keep the beaches clean at all times. Dispose of trash only in trash containers or trash bags.

The last day to request a camping permit is March 23, 2022, between 8:00 am to 11:30 am and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Additional conditions are now applicable:
BBQ pits are under no circumstances allowed on the beach. Gas BBQ grills are only allowed in designated areas.
Tents and trailers used for camping should be in decent condition. These should be placed at least

10 meters off the water's edge and a minimum of 5 meters from public roads. Failing to comply with these conditions will result in the removal by the authorities. Reservation of camping sites is under no circumstances allowed
Tent, trailer, and other related items are only allowed on the designated areas determined by the Government.
Each camping site should have proper first aid kits (EHBO kits)
Profanity/immorality is not allowed on trailers, tents, etc.
Camping is strictly according to the conditions set in the camping permit
Vehicles, bicycles, horses, and carts are prohibited on the beach and beaches designated to the public.
Fires/fire-pits are not allowed on the beach
The sale of food, sodas, mixed drinks, or any other article is not allowed on the beach without a valid permit
Music is only allowed from trailers or tents. During weekdays until 10:00 pm and on the weekends until midnight. In both cases, the volume should never bother others campers. The use of sound systems/amplifiers is only allowed as long as it does not bother other campers.
Trees or parts of trees are not allowed to be cut without a permit.
Boats are not allowed in the swimming area. It is not permitted to anchor boats to the buoys destined for maritime use.

Pallets and cardboard structures are not allowed on the beach. Failing to comply with this will result in the removal by the authorities.
Neither the beach nor palm trees can be used for toilets
Horses and dogs are not allowed on the beach
Public huts should remain available for regular beachgoers and are not allowed to be used by campers.
The beach should not be littered. It is not allowed to leave broken glass or trash on the beach or in the ocean.
The camping permit is not transferable.
The permit holder should have the permit displayed in the tent or trailer visible for the authorities
The permit holder has the rights on the camping site exclusively during the valid camping period. Before April 10, 2022, they are not allowed to reserve, mark, or enclose the area from others.
The permit holder is responsible for any damage/harm caused to third parties due to his/her trailer/tent or any other objects.
All police instructions in the general interest, person, and property safety or based on morals, must be strictly followed. Failing to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit will result in its revocation and a fine.
The last date to register for the camping permit



is March 23, 2022. Please The police department will comply with the rules and enforce these rules at all enjoy your camping. camping sites around the island. □



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Website: www.pinchosaruba.com



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Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com



Trash 2 Cash's Pitch & Switch Event: a step towards durable waste management



ORANJESTAD – On March 22, 2022, a group of participants presented their plans to an expert panel during the "Pitch & Switch" event of Trash 2 Cash at the Renaissance Convention Center.

The Minister of Integrity, Transport, Nature, and Elderly Care, Ursell Arends, announced this event was on February 22, 2022.

The participants presented 24 pitches to the panel of experts. They discuss their ideas and the cooperation required from the Government to carry out recycling, re-purpose and reduce the different waste streams.

Initially, they received 34 pitches, and 31 were selected to be presented during the Pitch & Switch Event. Now that these companies did present their ideas, the Government, commercial organizations, and stakeholders are moving forward to the next step and will seek the best durable solution for waste management in Aruba.

A solid base is required in the community to enforce legislation. The infrastructure and legislation must be in place to redirect the waste streams, making it possible for the involved parties to process this waste.

It is essential to state that Trash 2 Cash does not compromise the Government to any financial commitment. The role of the Government is as a facilitator. It is responsible by law to establish the norms, conditions, and criteria. The Minister wants to work together in finding a durable solution for the waste issue in Aruba and finally put an end to the Parkietenbos dump.

The Government's objective is to precipitate recycling activities and the circular economy as soon as possible and needs the collaboration of the entire community to take the necessary steps.

Now it is the task of the expert panel and the event organizer to analyze all the collected data presented. Upon completion, it will present its analysis to the Minister, who will take the steps needed to solidify the proposal.

For more information, please visit www.trashtocash-aruba.org and or the Facebook page Trash to Cash Aruba. □



More than \$150,000 in prizes The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba launched its amazing campaign: Mega Win Luxury Vacations!

PALM BEACH — The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba launched its amazing campaign: Mega Win Luxury Vacations! This campaign started on February 1st and will go on till April 30th, 2022, where they will raffle dream vacations to the newest hotels in the Caribbean: The Ritz-Carlton, Turks and Caicos and The St. Regis Bermuda Resort. They will also raffle dream vacations to The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba and more prizes amongst their visitors.

All members of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba can participate in this campaign till April 30th. There will be still 2 drawing dates: March 26th and April 30th. A total of 10 finalists will be selected on each drawing date and will qualify through the raffle tickets in the raffle box and through the MVP (Most Valuable Player) promotion. To participate is very easy: you need to be a member of The Casino VIP Club. For every 80 points you accumulate on slot play and every \$40 dollars in Theoretical Win on table play you will receive one ticket. In addition you have the option to receive one free raffle ticket to participate by visiting one of our Restaurants at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. With every dinner purchase at Casa Nonna New York and BLT Steak, you will receive a voucher to participate. Simply present the restaurant voucher together with the dinner receipt at the Casino VIP Desk on the same night to redeem your raffle ticket.

The prizes for this promotion will be as follows:

- 3 x vacations for two persons to The Ritz-Carlton, Turks and Caicos
- 3 x vacations for two persons to The St. Regis Bermuda Resort
- 3 x vacations for two persons to The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- 21 x slot credit prizes for a total of \$52,500

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba keeps innovating by bringing exciting campaigns for their visitors who are always surprised and excited to participate. Additionally, The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba offers a thoughtfully-tiered player reward program called 'Elevate', featuring exclusive benefits and events for members. Members can earn points for both slot machines and table games and receive cash redemption from slot machine points, while accumulated table comps can be redeemed towards enjoying the hotel's celebrated amenities, including complimentary rooms nights, dining, and spa.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is known as the island's luxury casino where guests enjoy exceptional personalized service, a great selection of table games and state-of-the-art slot machines for a casino experience like no other.

For more information about the Mega Win Luxury Vacations Campaign, the Elevate Tier Program and other promotions, visit us at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba VIP Desk or call us at 527-2276/ 527-2277 and we will be delighted to assist you. □



THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA

What to know before your business adds buy now, pay later

By ROSALIE MURPHY of NerdWallet

"Buy now, pay later" is becoming common at large retailers like Target, Ikea and Macy's. More and more small-business owners are allowing their customers the ability to pay in installments, too.

In fact, 55% of local businesses use buy now, pay later online and 5% offer it as an in-store payment option, according to a February survey from payments news site PYMNTS.com.

If you're thinking about offering buy now, pay later at your small business, here's what you need to know.

HOW BUY NOW, PAY LATER WORKS

Buy now, pay later involves three parties: the customer, the merchant and the buy now, pay later provider. When a customer makes a purchase, the provider pays the merchant in full, minus fees. Then the customer pays the provider back in installments.

Buy now, pay later transactions cost merchants anywhere from 1.5% to 7% of a customer's total purchase amount, compared to 1% to 3% for most debit and credit cards, according to a 2021 briefing from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

For example, say your customer splits a \$400 purchase into four payments of \$100 each. If your buy now, pay later provider charges a 5% fee for this service, it would pay you \$380 upfront for this transaction and collect



Customers debate on a television selection, Friday, Nov. 26, 2021, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

the \$400 from the customer over time.

WHY BUSINESSES OFFER BUY NOW, PAY LATER

Buy now, pay later may cost more than other payment methods, but advocates for the service say it brings additional benefits.

"We usually ask our retail clients not to think of us as a payment option, but as a new customer acquisition channel," says David Sykes, head of Klarna North America. According to the PYMNTS.com survey, a higher percentage of millennial and Generation Z customers are interested in using buy now, pay later compared to respondents of other generations, particularly at luxury and specialty stores. "If you're a boutique, if you're artisanal, if you're

a high-margin business, (serving younger customers) offers you the opportunity to have a longer-term value for that customer," says Julian Alcazar, a Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City payments specialist. Buy now, pay later may also lead to more customers increasing their spending. That's been the case for online sustainable clothing marketplace Wearwell. Wearwell began accepting buy now, pay later payments after receiving a Small Business Impact Initiative grant from Klarna in 2021. Today, customers who use Klarna spend about 76% more than those who don't, according to the company's co-founder and CEO, Erin Houston. "It just reduces the friction

when it comes to someone adding one more thing to their cart, or choosing to splurge on that purchase that they really want," Houston says.

Buy now, pay later isn't just for retailers. Alcazar has seen a dentist and a mechanic accept installment payments in recent years.

"When emergencies happen, they don't happen on payday," Alcazar says. Buy now, pay later can allow customers to get the service they need right away, which means the merchant can perform the service — and get paid for it — sooner.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR
In December, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau launched a probe of five buy now, pay later

providers, including Klarna. Officials cited concerns about how much debt customers are accumulating, how these companies use customer data and whether they adequately disclose their fees and dispute resolution processes.

Buy now, pay later providers will have to adapt to potential regulations, says Brett Worick, vice president of BNPL and point of sale lending at First National Bank of Omaha. And as this payment method gets more popular, he says buy now, pay later providers will need to learn to manage the risks of these kinds of loans, which may mean their offerings will change.

"It's almost like the risk is the stuff that we don't even know about yet," says Terri Bradford, a senior payments specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

HOW TO CHOOSE A PROVIDER

When shopping for a buy now, pay later provider, Bradford says "it's not like there's a one-size-fits-all."

Buy now, pay later apps won't be your only options — banks offer at-checkout financing, too. For example, First National Bank of Omaha rolled out its own buy now, pay later service last fall.

In addition to helping businesses offer at-checkout financing with payment terms of a few months, FNBO has point-of-sale loans with terms as long as 10 years. □

China's ZTE says probation ends after clash with Washington

BEIJING (AP) — ZTE Corp. said Wednesday a U.S. judge has allowed a probation period to end after the telecom equipment maker was nearly destroyed in a clash with Washington over its dealings with Iran and North Korea.

In 2018, then-President Donald Trump barred ZTE's access to American components amid rising tension with Beijing over technology and security.

The company had pleaded guilty the previous year to shipping equipment to Iran and North Korea in violation of U.S. rules and agreed to pay a \$1.2 billion fine.

ZTE agreed to pay an additional \$1 billion, replace its executives and be scrutinized by U.S.-appointed monitors to regain access to U.S. technology. The company sells smartphones and network equipment

that use American processor chips and other technology.

The company, headquartered in the southern city of Shenzhen, said its probation ended as planned Tuesday after a federal judge in Texas declined to take further action.

ZTE promised in a statement to make compliance with laws and regulations "the cornerstone of its strategic development." □



Visitors walk past a display from Chinese technology firm ZTE at the PT Expo in Beijing, Sept. 26, 2018. ZTE Corp.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

C	A	B	A	L	B	O	W	I	E
A	G	A	P	E	A	W	O	K	E
B	E	R	E	T	N	E	W	E	L
B	O	B	T	C	U	R	A	M	
A	M	O	E	B	A	D	I	N	O
D	A	N	G	E	R	Z	O	N	E
G	R	E	G	R	E	G	G	A	E
E	S	S	K	E	N	T	R	Y	
B	U	R	R	O	T	O	N	I	C
A	F	O	O	T	H	Y	E	N	A
G	O	W	N	S	S	A	S	S	Y

Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS**
- 38 Wild
 - 1 Quasi-modo's concern
 - 6 Rx amounts
 - 11 Some messages
 - 12 Peace goddess
 - 13 Singer Ronstadt
 - 14 Far from wordy
 - 15 Co. abbr.
 - 16 Fido or Tabby
 - 18 Stick in a pack
 - 19 Last letter
 - 20 Fork over
 - 21 Sushi choice
 - 22 Game hosts
 - 24 Lord's wife
 - 25 Call for takeout
 - 27 Teri of "Tootsie"
 - 29 End a suit
 - 32 Diamond judge
 - 33 Minivan alternative
 - 34 Yr. parts
 - 35 Egg — yong
 - 36 King Kong, for one
 - 37 Play part
- DOWN**
- 7 Galena, for one
 - 8 Marine Corps rank
 - 9 Followed
 - 10 Fitting
 - 17 Lessens the pressure
 - 23 Go wrong
 - 24 Ignited
 - 26 Put on a pedestal
 - 27 Hearty laugh
 - 28 Microscope sight
 - 30 Find
 - 31 Old Testament book
 - 33 Store events
 - 39 Demand
 - 41 French friend

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17			18	
19				20				21	
22			23				24		
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38			39			40	41		
42							43		
44							45		

A X Y D I B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

X Y I R I E Y I W K U M F R B M R Y U M I

U M X I X Y I J U G L R I N I X Y I K R

O Z M M I X A L L D U X N K I C

X Y L C R L J G L R — V . C . W Z K K U L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THAT IS ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS WORLD — THERE ARE ALWAYS SURE TO BE MORE SPRINGS. LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY

Alaska air pollution holds clues for other Arctic climates

By MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) —

In the pristine expanse of Alaska's interior lies a dirty secret: some of the most polluted winter air in the United States can be found in and around Fairbanks.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough, which includes Alaska's second largest city, routinely exceeds limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for particle pollution that can be inhaled and cause myriad health problems.

Over seven weeks this winter, nearly 50 scientists from the U.S. and Europe descended on Fairbanks to study the sources of air pollution, how the contaminants interact in the city's cold and dark climate and to come up with a list of best practices for people living across the circumpolar north.

What they find could help city planners make better decisions on where to place power plants or smelters in northern climates and guide lawmakers on how to regulate chemicals in fuel oil or other sources to reduce the harm.

The task becomes even more important as climate change is driving people away from places that are getting hotter toward northern areas, even though climate change is warming the Arctic twice as fast as the rest of the planet. In Fairbanks, the average winter temperature rose 2.7 degrees F (1.5 degrees C) since 1992, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Like Salt Lake City and other cities surrounded by mountains, Fairbanks suf-



This Feb. 17, 2022, photo shows a plume of smoke being emitted into the air from a power plant in Fairbanks, Alaska, which has some of the worst polluted winter air in the United States.

Associated Press

fers from winter inversions, layers of warmer air that trap cold, dirty air and keep it from dissipating. Even though wind is blowing aloft, the cold air prevents the wind from getting down to ground level.

"Just like an open top freezer in an old grocery store, that cold air just pools into the bottom of that freezer and air can just go right over the top," said Bill Simpson, an atmospheric chemistry professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute and the UAF College of Natural Science and Mathematics. "It's calm down here, and the pollution that's emitted down here stays down here, unfortunately," added Simpson, the project leader. The problem isn't unique to cold climates in the United States. The study is of interest to researchers in northern European cities because of the similar problems with inversions.

In Fairbanks, a major source of pollution comes from wood-burning stoves, which are common in this area where wood is plentiful and cheap, tempera-

tures routinely reach minus 40 degrees F (minus 40 C) or colder and heating fuel is expensive. Other sources are vehicle exhaust systems, power plant emissions and heating oil.

Owen Hanley practiced pulmonary medicine in Fairbanks for about 35 years. The retired doctor says the air pollution problem in Fairbanks can permanently harm respiratory function and cause many other problems.

The mixture of pollutants from smoldering wood fires, cars, coal and other sources releases additional chemicals that can be more harmful than cigarette smoke.

"We know with air pollution, there's more dementia in adults, there's more kidney failure and young pregnant women have more miscarriages and preterm births, and little kids don't get full lung development," said Hanley.

Seven French teams made detailed measurements of the air in downtown Fairbanks in efforts to better understand how small particles and droplets are formed. Meanwhile, a Swiss team used a tethered balloon, equipped with specialized instruments, to measure characteristics of aerosols and different trace gases at 1,200 feet (365 meters) above the ground. Another instrument allowed them to measure vertical profiles of the atmosphere. □

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Powell: Digital currencies will require new regulations



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell testifies before the Senate Banking Committee hearing, Thursday, March 3, 2022 on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said new forms of digital money such as cryptocurrencies and stablecoins present risks to the U.S. financial system and will require new rules to protect consumers.

Powell, speaking Wednesday on a panel organized by the Bank for International Settlements, a global organization of central bankers, also said that new technologies will likely make electronic payments cheaper and faster. But they could also destabilize existing financial institutions, he said.

"Our existing regulatory frameworks were not built with a digital world in mind," he said. "Stablecoins, central bank digital currencies, and digital finance more generally, will require changes to existing laws and regulation or even entirely new rules and

frameworks." Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency usually tied to the dollar or a commodity such as gold. Central bank digital currencies are digital forms of dollars or other currencies, issued by governments. The Fed is researching digital dollars but has not yet made a decision on whether to issue one. It released a study on stablecoins in January. Powell did not provide any details of what kind of regulations might be needed. He did say that they ought to follow the principle of "same activity, same regulation," meaning that transactions outside the traditional banking system should be regulated the same as they are when executed by banks.

Earlier this month, President Joe Biden signed an executive order directing the Treasury Department and other federal agencies to study the impact of cryptocurrency on financial sta-

bility and national security. His order came as several Democratic senators, including Elizabeth Warren from Massachusetts, have raised concerns that crypto could be used to evade U.S. sanctions on Russia. In his remarks, Powell outlined several risks that stem from the growth of digital finance, including to consumers and the broader financial system. Americans who buy stable-

coins or crypto "may not fully understand the extent of their potential losses, or that these investments generally lack the government protections that accompany many of the traditional financial instruments and services that they're used to," Powell said. □

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- WK 7 and 14 - all views

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 - 2 Bed Oceanside \$11,000
 - 2 Bed Ocean view \$8,000
 - 2 Bed Garden view \$6,000
 - 3 Bed Ocean view \$13,000

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- 1 Bed ocean front \$17,500
- 1 Bed ocean View \$12,000

- GOLD SEASON**
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 - 2 Bed Ocean view \$9,500
 - 1 Bed oceanfront \$9,000
 - 1 Bed ocean View \$6,500

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San Nicolas:
Seroe Preto Tel. 584 4833

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulance	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
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Dutch publisher pulls Anne Frank betrayal book amid critique

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The publisher of a new and controversial work about Anne Frank is pulling the book after a group of Dutch historians released an in-depth criticism of its “most likely scenario” of who betrayed the Jewish teenage diarist and her family in German-occupied Amsterdam during World War II.

Meanwhile, the U.S. publisher of “The Betrayal of Anne Frank: A Cold Case Investigation” announced Wednesday that it will continue to sell the book.

The cold case team’s research, published early this year in a book by Canadian academic and author Rosemary Sullivan, immediately drew criticism in the Netherlands.

In a 69-page written “refutation,” six historians and academics describe the cold case team’s findings as “a shaky house of cards.” The book’s Dutch publisher, Ambo Anthos, repeated an earlier apology and announced Tuesday night it was withdrawing “The Betrayal of Anne Frank.”

The book alleged that the person who revealed the location of the Frank family’s secret annex hiding place was likely a prominent Jewish notary, Arnold van den Bergh, who disclosed the location in an Amsterdam



Ronald Leopold, executive director Anne Frank House, answers questions next to the passage to the secret annex during an interview in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday, Jan. 17, 2022.

Associated Press

canal-side building to the German occupiers to save his own family from deportation and death in Nazi concentration camps.

The Dutch historians reviewed the team’s work and concluded the “accusation does not hold water.”

The historians said the book “displays a distinct pattern in which assumptions are made by the CCT (Cold Case Team), held to be true a moment later, and then used as a building block for the next step in the train of logic. This makes the entire book a shaky house of cards, because if any single step turns out to

be wrong, the cards above also collapse.”

In response, the cold case team’s leader, Pieter van Twisk, told Dutch broadcaster NOS the historians’ work was “very detailed and extremely solid” and said it “gives us a number of things to think about, but for the time being I do not see that Van den Bergh can be definitively removed as the main suspect.”

Since the book’s publication in January, the team has published detailed reactions to criticism of its work on its website.

Dutch filmmaker Thijs Bayens, who had the idea to put together the cold case

team, conceded in January that the team did not have 100% certainty about Van den Bergh.

“There is no smoking gun because betrayal is circumstantial,” Bayens told The Associated Press at the time.

Not all publishers were dropping the book. In the U.S., HarperCollins Publishers issued a statement saying it stands by “The Betrayal of Anne Frank,” adding that “While we recognize there has been some criticism to the findings, the investigation was done with respect and the utmost care for an extremely sensitive topic.”

The Frank family and four other Jews hid in the annex, which was reached by a secret staircase hidden behind a bookcase, from July 1942 until they were discovered in August 1944 and deported to concentration camps.

Anne and her sister died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Anne was 15. Only Anne’s father, Otto Frank, survived the Holocaust. He published her diary after WWII and it quickly became an enduring symbol of loss and resilience, read by millions around the world.

Ronald Leopold, the director of the Anne Frank House museum based in the building where the Frank family hid, said in January that there remained “many missing pieces of the puzzle. And those pieces need to be further investigated in order to see how we can value this new theory.”

On Wednesday, Leopold said question marks the museum had in January about the cold case team’s conclusions “are supported by the counter-examination of leading historians. You may not consign someone to history as Anne Frank’s betrayer if you do not have conclusive proof. We hope that this counter-investigation clears Van den Bergh’s name from blame, also for his relatives, including granddaughter Mirjam de Gorter.” □



Meghan Markle, The Duchess of Sussex, appears at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York, on Sept. 23, 2021.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The first podcast from Prince

Harry and Meghan’s partnership with Spotify will fo-

Meghan’s 1st Spotify podcast to focus on female stereotypes

cus on harmful labels and stereotypes applied to women. The “Archetypes” podcast will be hosted by Meghan and is expected to launch this summer.

The series will feature interviews with historians and experts to “investigate the labels that try to hold women back,” according to a summary posted on Spotify. The streaming service on Thursday released a minute-long teaser that opened with clips of people using the words “slut” and “skanky” and talking

about the stereotypes applied to women’s strength and intelligence.

“I’m Meghan and this is ‘Archetypes,’ the podcast where we dissect, explore and subvert the labels that try to hold women back,” the Duchess of Sussex says on the clip.

No lineup of guests has been announced.

Harry and Meghan have a multi-year deal to produce and host podcasts for Spotify under their production company Archewell Audio. In January the couple

called on the streaming service to do more to combat COVID-19 misinformation.

It is one of several high-profile deals the couple has, including one with Netflix. Harry and Meghan stepped away from royal duties in March 2020 over what they described as intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media toward the duchess. They have since relocated to California, where they are raising their two children, Archie and Lili. □

SailGP could have team owned by cryptocurrency fans by 2023

By **BERNIE WILSON**
AP Sports Writer

SailGP, the global league co-founded by software tycoon Larry Ellison, could have a team owned and operated by cryptocurrency enthusiasts as soon as the start of its fourth season in late 2023.

SailGP announced a multi-year partnership Thursday with blockchain development platform NEAR that will allow sailing and cryptocurrency fans to engage with their favorite teams and athletes in new ways. The announcement came ahead of SailGP's Season 2 finale, the Mubadala United States Sail Grand Prix in San Francisco, which will culminate with Sunday's \$1 million, winner-take-all podium race.

SailGP features most of the world's top sailors, including America's Cup winners and Olympic gold medalists, who race aboard wing-sailed, 50-foot catamarans that can reach 60 mph while skimming above the waves on hydrofoils. SailGP will expand from eight to 10 national teams for its third season.

While the agreement with NEAR is expected to have many benefits for fans, including NFTs, the highlight would be ownership of a sailing team by a community of token-holders known as a DAO, or decentralized autonomous organization.



In this image provided by SailGP, Britain's SailGP Team, right, helmed by Ben Ainslie, crosses paths with Spain SailGP Team co-helmed by Florian Trittel and Jordi Xammar during a practice session ahead of San Francisco SailGP in San Francisco, Wednesday, March 23, 2022.

Associated Press

The SailGP DAO would differ from traditional sports team structures in which a single owner or a small group calls the shots, said SailGP co-founder Russell Coutts and NEAR Foundation CEO Marieke Flament. The DAO could involve people from all over the world who vote on everything from the management structure to the length of the skipper's contract and could even decide whether there should be a woman steering the boat.

"That's in some ways why this is so exciting," Coutts said in a video interview.

"This is groundbreaking technology, a groundbreaking initiative. We don't believe it's been done before, especially on this scale. And when you think about it, with our events being all over the world, as well, we're not just in one particular territory. That's of interest as well."

Coutts, a New Zealander who has won the America's Cup five times, said he expects a DAO would attract more than just sailors. "I think sports fans, racing fans, businesspeople, tech people ... you can imagine this being a very diverse

group of people and they would probably feed off each other's skills," Coutts said. "The whole concept of, 'Hey, we'd like to have a say in what's going on,' that will appeal to a lot of people out there."

Coutts said a DAO would have to be viable enough for SailGP to sell it a position as a team operator.

Coutts and Ellison, the co-founder of Oracle Corp., started SailGP after their two-time defending champion Oracle Team USA was routed by Emirates Team New Zealand in the 2017 America's Cup. They re-en-

gineered the 50-foot catamarans used in that regatta and formed an annual circuit with regattas around the world.

Tom Slingsby, an Olympic gold medalist and former America's Cup champion, steered Team Australia to the inaugural championship and \$1 million prize in 2019. Slingsby and Team USA skipper Jimmy Spithill, a two-time America's Cup winner, have qualified for Sunday's \$1 million, winner-take-all race that will decide the pandemic-delayed Season 2 championship. The final spot will be determined by five fleet races this weekend.

For Season 2, SailGP has been using Oracle Stream Analytics to provide real-time race metrics that are available to the sailors as well as fans watching on TV or online.

Coutts said one reason for partnering with NEAR is that it's carbon-neutral, which fits the league's goal of being environmentally responsible.

"We want to be leading in terms of tech, whether it's our boats, our media, interactions with our fans," Coutts added. "We want to be modern and leading. We want to be at the forefront not just what's happening today, but we want to be looking at and leading what's happening tomorrow." □

Another day, another win for Naomi Osaka at Miami Open

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Two days, two wins and making it look easy.

The former world No. 1 is through to the third round at the Miami Open, easily handling 13th-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-2, 6-3 on Thursday. It was every bit as one-sided as the score made it seem, with Osaka winning 89% of first-serve points and 61 of the 100 points played in the match overall.

"It means a lot to me," said Osaka, unseeded in Miami

after falling to No. 77 in the world because she's missed considerable time to focus on her mental health in recent years. "She's the first high-seeded player I've beaten this year."

And when it comes to high-ranked opponents, the drought was even longer. Kerber is ranked 15th in the world; the last time Osaka defeated a top-15 ranked player was when she topped then-No. 10 Serena Williams in the 2021 Australian Open semifinals. Osaka went on to win that tournament and hasn't been to a

final since, but her win over Kerber — who had been 4-1 against Osaka entering Thursday — certainly made her look the part of a Miami contender. "I went into the match just really wanting to play my game," said Osaka, who has yet to drop a set in her two matches in Miami; she beat Astra Sharma 6-3, 6-4 on Wednesday. "I still have the memories of all the matches she's beaten me before. So yeah, I just wanted to play as well as I could. It worked out." Kerber's loss was part of a tough day for seeded play-



Naomi Osaka of Japan plays a ball in her second round women's match against Angelique Kerber of Germany at the Miami Open tennis tournament, Thursday, March 24, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

ers on the women's side. No. 18 Leylah Fernandez, No. 25 Daria Kasatkina and No. 31 Alize Cornet were all defeated Thursday, all in

straight sets. Fernandez — a U.S. Open finalist last year — lost to Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic 6-4, 7-6 (3). □

Analysis: Full-time Irving doesn't solve all Nets issues

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kyrie Irving can play home games now, so the Brooklyn Nets might be good enough to win the NBA championship. Or they might be flawed enough to miss the playoffs entirely.

The exemption given by Mayor Eric Adams of the vaccine mandate that made Irving eligible to play in New York City should make the Nets even more explosive, perhaps too potent to be stopped four times even by the toughest defensive teams. With Irving and Kevin Durant together, the Nets can pile up the points.

They also give them up in bunches.

Take Wednesday night in Memphis, for example. Irving poured in 43 points and Durant had 35. Yet, the Nets lost because they surrendered a whopping 132 points to a Grizzlies team that didn't even have its best player, All-Star guard Ja Morant.

It's games like that which make the Nets, who hope to still add Ben Simmons to improve their leaky defense, the most intriguing team in the league in the final days of the regular



Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving (11) celebrates with forward Kevin Durant, left, after Irving scored his 60th point of the game in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic, Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

season. They could win it all. They could lose once in the play-in tournament and be eliminated.

"If they can ever line it up man, where both dudes are playing and playing at a high level, it's going to be very, very scary, especially when Ben plays," Portland coach Chauncey Billups said.

"If" is an apt assessment of the Nets.

An everyday Irving provides a big boost. But Simmons still isn't even practicing because of a herniated disk in his back, and who knows how much a player even of his ability can help after sitting out all season. Irving has always been a spectacular offensive force, almost unmatched in his ability to create shots off his dazzling dribbling packages. His performance this season seems even more

remarkable given how difficult it is to keep a rhythm with his inability to play at home. The game Wednesday was the first time he'd played in nine days since he had a career-high 60 on March 15 in Orlando. Had the mandate remained in place, Irving would have been eligible to play in only two of the Nets' final nine games, with six scheduled at home and one across town against

the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden. But his refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19 — in a league where 97% of players did — has left Brooklyn in a precarious position. The Nets are only eighth in the Eastern Conference, probably needing to advance out of the play-in to make the postseason. And if the current standings hold, they'd have their first game in that tournament in Toronto, where Irving wouldn't be eligible to play. Even if they do advance, they are destined to be locked into one of the lowest seeds in the eight-team Eastern Conference playoffs, forced to open against a top team such as defending NBA champion Milwaukee, Miami or surging Boston.

And it seems reasonable that Irving's decision contributed at least somewhat to James Harden's frustration with the Nets, which led them to trade the three-time scoring champion and former NBA MVP to Philadelphia in February in the deal for Simmons. Brooklyn also got back Andre Drummond and Seth Curry in the trade and both players have become starters. □

Griner seen by U.S. consulate in Russian detention facility



Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner (42) shoots over Indiana Fever forward Teaira McCowan (15) in the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Monday, Sept. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

By **The Associated Press**

The U.S. State Department said Wednesday that a U.S. Embassy official has visited with WNBA star Brittney Griner, who remains detained near Moscow, to check on

her condition. State Department spokesperson Ned Price told CNN the official found Griner "to be in good condition." Price did not identify the official who had been granted

consular access to Griner, something the United States had been demanding. Griner was detained after arriving at a Moscow airport, reportedly in mid-February, after Russian authorities said a search of her luggage revealed vape cartridges that allegedly contained oil derived from cannabis, which could carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Russian state news agency Tass reported last week that a court had extended Griner's pretrial detention to May 19.

Price says the U.S. "will do everything we can to see that she is treated fairly throughout this ordeal." Griner's legal ordeal comes amid tension between Russia and the U.S. over Rus-

sia's invasion of Ukraine. A member of a Russian state-backed prison monitoring group visited with Griner last week at the pretrial detention facility outside Moscow where she's being held and said the Phoenix Mercury star was faring well behind bars.

Griner's lawyers have been visiting her regularly. The legal team for the two-time Olympic gold-medalist has been quietly seeking her release and has declined to speak out about the case since her arrest was made public.

Of the thousands of U.S. citizens arrested and jailed in prisons abroad, a small subset are designated by the U.S. government as wrongfully detained — a category that affords their cases

an extra level of government attention and places them under the auspices of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department. The U.S. government has not yet put Griner's case in that category.

Griner is not the only American detained in Russia. Marine veteran Trevor Reed was sentenced to nine years in prison in 2020 on charges alleging that he assaulted police officers in Moscow. And Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan is serving a 16-year sentence on espionage charges that his family and the U.S. government have said are false. U.S. officials have publicly called for Moscow to release them. □